Plantation in Punjab

3406. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of proposals received from the Government of Punjab under the scheme to encourage voluntary agencies for involving them in forest plantation work;

(b) whether any action has been taken thereon; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) 11 proposals from Government of Punjab under Grants-in-Aid to Voluntary Agencies Scheme of the Ministry of Environment and Forests have been received during the period from 2003-04 to 2005-06 (till date) to encourage the voluntary agencies in generating awareness about, and to participate in tree plantation. Out of 11 proposals received, 4 proposals recommended by the Screening Committee following the prescribed criteria and as per availability of funds for the purpose were approved by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Punjab was informed accordingly.

Encroachment of Forest Land in Orissa

†3407. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large area of protected land reserved for village forest in K.B.K. area of Orissa has been encroached upon by the people;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures Government have taken to get rid of illegal encroachments; and

(d) the results of these measures?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 12,071 hectares of Village forests and Revenue forests land is under encroachment in K.B.K. area of Orissa.

(c) and (d) As a result of the eviction measures taken by the State Government, 2954 hectares of ineligible encroachments have been evicted so far.

Construction of Transmission Towers across rivers

3408. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representations have been received on the negative impact of construction of transmission towers across rivers in the Country;

(b) if so, the details of such problems;

(c) whether the River Conservation Programme has any policy which deals with the un-planned construction of power transmission towers in the lower reaches of rivers;

(d) the steps proposed to ensure that rivers and their flows are not negatively affected by such un-planned construction;

(e) whether any inspection has been done till date; and

(f) if so, the details in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (f) A representation from Chairman, Forum on Special and Human Rights is reported to have been received in the Union Ministry of Power raising certain points relating to the construction of transmission towers across rivers by Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) in general and across Godavari river in particular. This representation was sent by the Ministry of Power to PGCIL. The PGCIL after examining the matter is reported to have informed that rivers enroute the transmission lines are normally crossed by placing towers on the banks of the river and in case where the width of the river is large, mid-stream towers are provided on pile or well foundations. As the